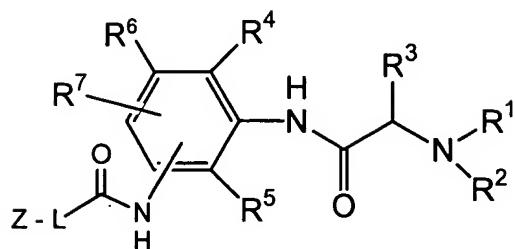


In the Claims.

1 (currently amended). A compound of the formula:



Formula 1

wherein

Z ~~is~~ comprises a nucleophilic group and optionally a protecting group;

L is a linker;

R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ are each independently H, a protecting group or C₁ to C₆ alkyls, provided that R¹ and R³ may form a six membered ring with the nitrogen and carbon atom to which R¹ and R³ are attached; and R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently H or C₁ to C₂₀ alkyls; and

including salts or a salt thereof.

2 (original). The compound of claim 1, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of a tertiary amine, a secondary amine, a primary amine, -SH, and -OH.

3 (currently amended). The compound of claim 1, wherein Z ~~comprises~~ is a tertiary amine.

4 (currently amended). The composition of claim 1, wherein L ~~is a~~ comprises 1 to 20 carbon skeleton and including having 0-10 0 to 10 heteroatoms.

5 (currently amended). The compound of claim 1, wherein L comprises is -NC(=O)-Y-

wherein Y comprises is a 1 to 20 carbon skeleton having 0 to 10 and including 0-10 heteroatoms.

6 (currently amended). The compound of claim 1, wherein L is comprises a straight chain.

7 (original). The compound of claim 1, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of alkyls, amidos, carbonyls, ethers, and thioethers.

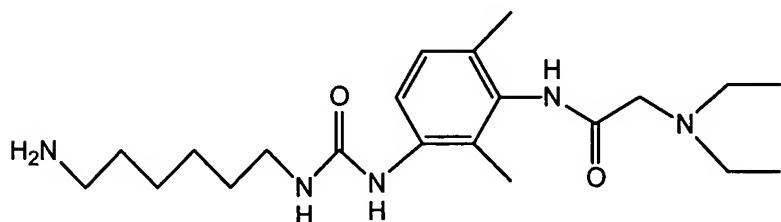
8 (original). The compound of claim 1, wherein R⁷ is in the para position.

9 (original). The compound of claim 8, wherein R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently H or C₁ to C₆.

10 (original). The compound of claim 8, wherein R¹ and R² are each ethyl, R³ is H, and R⁴ and R⁵ are each methyl.

11 (original). The compound of claim 10, wherein R⁶ and R⁷ are each H.

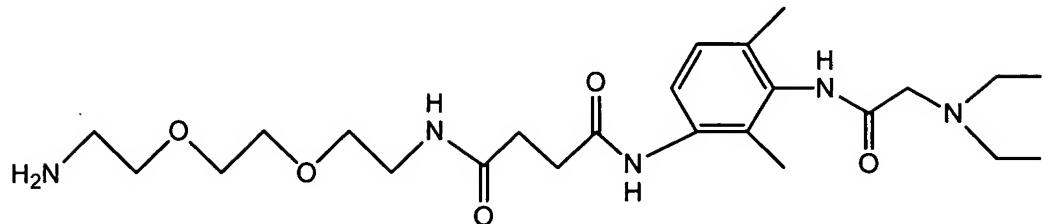
12 (currently amended). The compound of the formula



Formula 7

and including salts or a salt thereof.

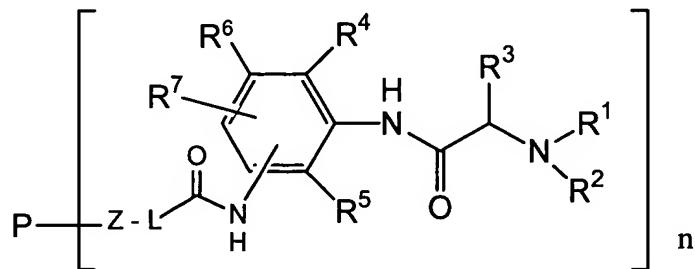
13 (currently amended). The compound of the formula:



Formula 11

and including salts or a salt thereof.

14 (currently amended). A composition of the formula:



Formula 12

wherein:

Z comprises is a nucleophilic group and optionally a protecting group;

P is a latex polymer having at least one functional group capable of coupling with the nucleophilic group;

L is a linker;

n is an integer from 1 to about 100,000;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 are each independently H, a protecting group, or C_1 to C_6 alkyls, provided that R^1 and R^3 may form a six membered ring with the nitrogen and carbon atom to which R^1 and R^3 are attached, and

R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently H or C₁ to C₂₀ alkyls.

15 (original). The composition of claim 14, wherein R⁷ is in the para position.

16 (currently amended). The composition of claim 14, wherein the functional group ~~comprises~~ is an epoxy group.

17 (original). The composition of claim 14, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of a tertiary amine, a secondary amine, a primary amine, -SH, and -OH.

18 (currently amended). The composition of claim 14, wherein Z ~~comprises~~ is a tertiary amine.

19 (currently amended). The composition of claim 14, wherein L ~~comprises~~ is a 1 to 20 carbon skeleton having 0 to 10 atoms and including 0-10 heteroatoms.

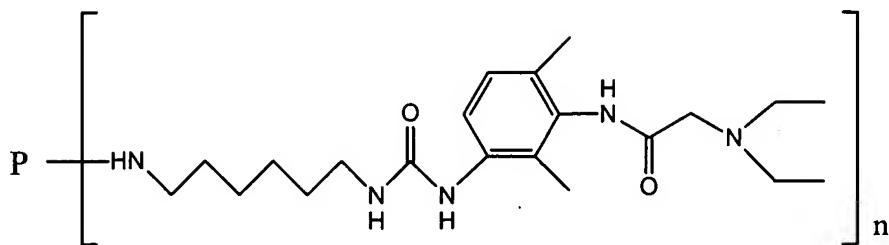
20 (currently amended). The composition of claim 14, wherein L ~~comprises~~ is -NC(=O)-Y-

wherein Y ~~comprises~~ is a 1 to 20 carbon skeleton having 0 to 10 and including 0-10 heteroatoms.

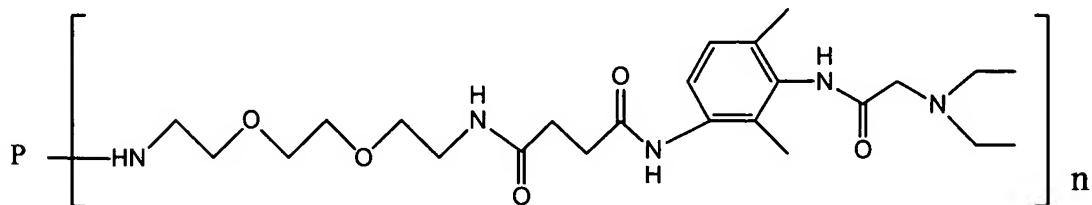
21 (currently amended). The composition of claim 20, wherein L ~~comprises~~ is a straight chain.

22 (original). The composition of claim 21, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of alkyls, amidos, carbonyls, ethers, and thioethers.

23 (original). The composition according to claim 14 and having the formula:



24 (original). The composition according to claim 14 and having the formula:



25 (original). A method for detecting the presence or amount of an analyte in a sample, the method comprising:

contacting the sample with a specific binding pair, the specific binding pair including a first specific binding member and a second specific binding member which are capable of associating with each other to form a complex, the second specific binding member also being specific for the analyte;

measuring the amount complex formed; and

determining the presence or amount of analyte based upon the measured complex, wherein the first specific binding member comprises a composition of the formula of claim 14.

26 (original). A method of conducting an immunoassay using the polymer-bound lidocaine analog of claim 14, comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a solution comprising said polymer-bound lidocaine analog;

- b) adding a test sample containing an unknown concentration of lidocaine to said solution;
- c) adding an anti-lidocaine antibody to said solution;
- d) observing a change in solution turbidity following antibody addition.

27 (original). The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of determining the concentration of lidocaine in the test sample by comparing the change in solution turbidity to a standard curve showing the dependence of a change in solution turbidity on the concentration of lidocaine in a standard solution, said standard solution having a known concentration of lidocaine.

28 (original). A kit for use in performing an immunoassay comprising, in combination:

- 1) a composition according to claim 14; and
- 2) an antibody specific for the composition and for lidocaine or a derivative thereof.